NOMINATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SITE, OR OBJECT PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM ON CD (MS WORD FORMAT)

1. ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE (must comply with a Board of Revision of Taxes address) Street address: 3419 W. SCHOOL HOUSE LANE Postal code: 19129 Councilmanic District: 4
2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE HISTORIC Name: DR. & MRS. JACOBY T. ROTHNER RESIDENCE COMMON Name: 3421 W. SCHOOL HOUSE LANE
3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE ☐ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Site ☐ Object
4. PROPERTY INFORMATION Condition: ☑ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ poor ☐ ruins Occupancy: ☑ occupied ☐ vacant ☐ under construction ☐ unknown Current use: RESIDENCE
5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Please attach a plot plan and written description of the boundary.
6. DESCRIPTION Please attach a description of the historic resource.
7. SIGNIFICANCE Please attach the Statement of Significance. Period of Significance (from year to year): from 1948 to 1951 Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1951, 1914, 2009 Architect, engineer, and/or designer: NORMAN RICE, ARCHITECT FRANK NACE Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: ENGINE Original owner: DR. 9 MFS. JACOBY T. ROTHUER. Other significant persons:

The historic resource satisfies the following criteria for designation (check all that apply): (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or, (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or, (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or, (d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; or, (e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or, (f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or, (g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved	
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innovation; or, (g) is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved	
according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,	a
(h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,	,
(i) Has vielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history; or	
(j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.	
9. NOMINATOR MR. PAUL WELDE Name with Title MS. JANET GRACE Email PAULWEUDE COMCAS* Organization HOME OWNER Date 8-8-09 Street Address 3421 W. SCHOOL HOUSE Wilelephone 261-718 7633	<u> </u>
City, State, and Postal Code PHIADELPHA, PA 19129	 ;
Nominator ☑ is ☐ is not the property owner.	
PHC USE ONLY	
Date of Receipt: 6/9/2010	
☐ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete ☐ Date: 10/1/2010 ☐ Date: 10/1/2010	
Date of Notice issuance.	
Property Owner at Time of Notice Name: Janet Grace, Paul D. Welde	
2410 M/C d	
Address: 3419 W School House Lane	
City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19124	1
Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: 11/2/2010	
Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: 11/12/2010	
11/12/2010	
Date of Final Action: 11/12/2010	

Exhibit A

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground, described according to a Survey and Plan thereof made by John T. Campbell, Surveyor and Regulator of the 9th District of the 3rd day of October A.D. 1946, as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at a point on the Northwest side of School House Lane (60 feet wide) at the distance of 1177 feet 7-1/8 inches Southwest from the center line of Henry Avenue (100 feet wide) in the 21st Ward of the City of Philadelphia; thence extending South 45 degrees, 17 minutes, 20 seconds West along the said side of School House Lane, 100 feet 10-1/4 inches to a point; thence extending North 37 degrees, 15 minutes West 269 feet 7-5/8 inches to a point; thence extending North 48 degrees, 21 minutes, 10 seconds East 100 feet 3-1/2 inches to a point; thence extending South 37 degrees, 15 minutes East 264 feet 2-3/4 inches to the North side of School House Lane.

BEING 3419-23 West School House Lane.

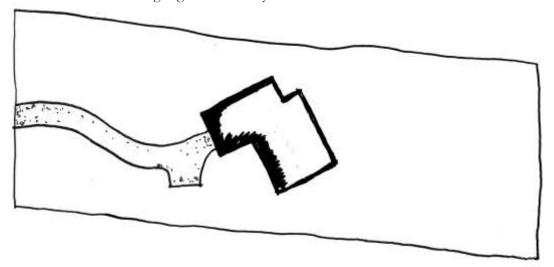
6. Physical Description of the Property

Prepared by Janet Grace

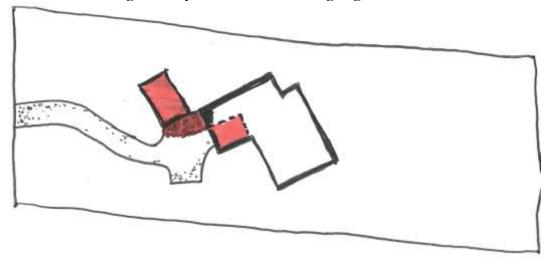
- 1. The Address of the property and the section of the City in which it is located
- BRT address: 3419 West School House Lane
- Street Address: 3421 West School House Lane
- Section of the City: East Falls

2. Type of Property:

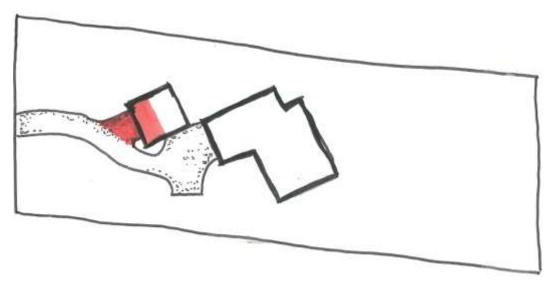
- 1951- Single family home with attached garage. Later modifications were made as follows:
- 1974- Attached garage converted to bedroom/bath Suite and detached garage added, driveway modified.
- Prior to 2007 Attached garage expanded by 250 SF, driveway is modified.
- 2009 Attached garage and driveway modified



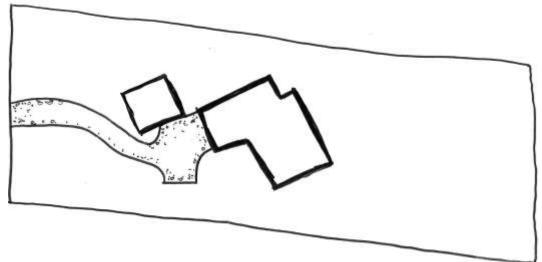
1951 Site Plan - Single Family Home with attached garage



1974 Site Plan – Attached garage converted to bedroom/bath Suite and detached garage built, driveway modified



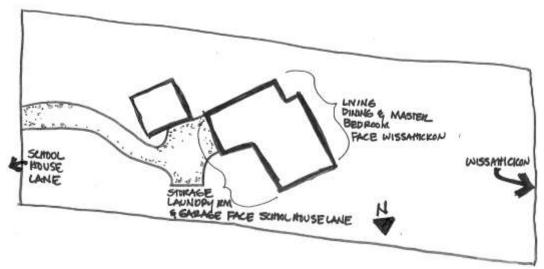
Prior to 2007 Site Pan – Detached garage is expanded by 250 square feet, second entrance to garage is added, driveway is modified.



2009 Site Plan- Second entrance to detached garage is infilled with concrete block, reverting entry into the garage to 1974 condition. Driveway is modified.

3. Location of the resource in relationship to it's grounds

• The house is located on the site so that the non-living spaces, (storage room, garage, guest bedroom and laundry room) face noisy School House Lane. These rooms have few to no windows facing the Street and serve as an acoustical barrier keeping the living spaces of the house quiet. The dining room, living room, office and master bedroom face the backyard and the Wissahickon Valley beyond. The house is located at a 60 degree angle to the property lines and centrally located within the North/South/East West axis of the property lines. The house is surrounded by a wooded and terraced lot.



Site Plan of the house within its grounds

4. Description of Original Building Materials: 1951 Exterior Materials:

- 8"x16" hollow cinder block, invented approx 1925.
- 12"x16" hollow cinder block.
- ½" parging at the face of the cinder block.
- 8"x5" Clear Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block, Pattern: Argus perpendicular first manufactured 1938.
- Masonite invented 1924.
- Cupples aluminum single pane annealed clear glass double hung windows with separate screens and storm windows.
- Cupples aluminum double pane clear glass windows.
- Reeded glass and translucent glass at the bathroom windows.
- Entry door: flush solid wood core with 12"x14" lite.
- Back door 1: flush solid wood core.
- Back door 2: flush solid wood core with 30X48" lite.
- Storm door, aluminum with jalousy windows, removable screen.
- Roofing material: unknown.
- Roof type 1: Shed.
- Roof type 2: Butterfly.
- Downspouts: Aluminum.



1951- Cinder block with parging and scored joints



1951-Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block



1951- Cupples single pane windows with storm windows Cupples double pane windows Masonite panels run continuous above windows



1951- Solid core flush wood door



1951- Aluminum Storm door with jalousie windows

1951 Interior Materials

- Plasterboard ceilings and walls
- Brown Textured 9"x9" Vinyl Asbestos tile in all of the rooms, with the exception of the full bathrooms (Note: Vinyl Asbestos tile was abated in 2009 and slate to match the existing fireplace mantle was installed see pictures that follow)
- 5" mitered solid Mahogany paneling in the vestibule, entry hall, living room wall
- 5" mitered solid Mahogany paneling is at the back face of the built-in bookcases. The top of the bookcases serves as a window sill and is a gloss wood grained laminate.
- Flush Mahogany veneered paneling in the office.
- Stone wall at the fireplace.
- Built-in wire mesh fireplace screen on curtain track.
- Slate floor and mantel at the fireplace
- Glazed 4"x4" Ceramic Tile at the walls of the full bathrooms
- Ceramic 2"x2" Mosaic floor tile at the floors of the full bathrooms.
- Ceramic and glass towel bars, toilet room accessories.

- Metal medicine cabinet with glass shelves, satin nickel pull.
- Metal medicine cabinet with mirrored door, exposed fluorescent lamps.
- White American Standard wall mounted sinks, tank toilets and bathtubs.
- Yellow, speckled Plastic Laminate counters are located in the kitchen and darkroom
- White Metal Geneva Cabinets are located in the kitchen.
- Painted Wood Cabinets in the darkroom.
- Schlage Plymouth brass knob hardware, in satin nickel finish.
- Cast Iron Laundry tub with white porcelain finish.



1951 Living Room showing 9x9 brown vinyl asbestos tiles, mahogany paneling



1951 Stone fireplace with slate mantle, vinyl asbestos tile has been removed, yellow laminate counter and backsplash and white metal Geneva cabinets are visible at Kitchen



2009 Living Room Dining Room showing slate floors, texture of slate replicates texture of original vinyl asbestos tile. Color of slate matches mantle.

1974 Exterior Materials:

- 8"x16" hollow cinder block
- ½" parging at the face of the cinder block.
- Plywood siding located above the window and door openings.
- Aluminum single pane annealed clear glass double hung windows with separate screens and storm windows.
- Roofing material: rolled asphalt with aluminum silicate coating.
- White aluminum siding is installed at underside of eaves.
- Solid wood paneled garage door.



1974-Double Hung Aluminum windows with plywood panel above

1974Interior Materials:

- Gypsum Wall Board
- Glazed 4"x4" Ceramic Tile at the walls of the full bathrooms
- Glazed 2"x2" Mosaic floor tile at the floors of the full bathrooms.
- White Plastic Laminate counters at bathroom vanity
- Vinyl Composition tile
- Plastic Laminate Vanity.
- Chrome plated towel racks, bathroom accessories.
- Metal medicine cabinet with mirrored door, fluorescent light fixtures with shades.

2009 Exterior Materials:

- 8"x16" hollow cinder block
- ½" parging at the face of the cinder block.
- 8"x5" Clear Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block, Pattern: Argus perpendicular.
- Roofing: Versico 60ml black rubber



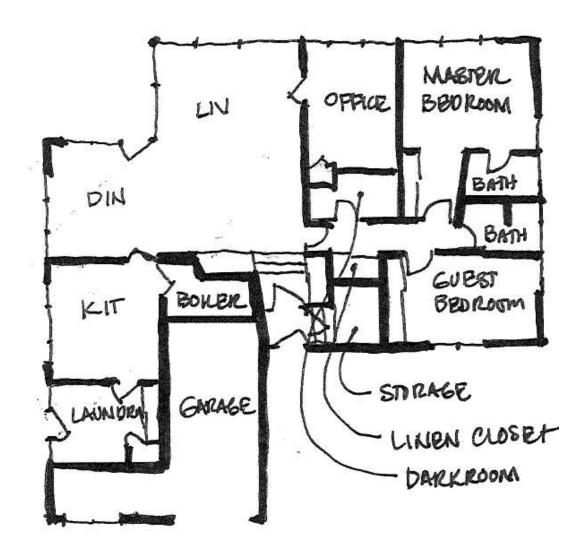
2009- infill at garage using parged, scored cinder block and Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block



2009- Close-up of Glass Block

5. General plan of the building

• The L shaped plan is open unifying the Living and Dining areas The layout of the space is compact and the Living and Dining areas serve as the "hallway" between the Kitchen and the Bedrooms.



1951 Floor Plan- approximately 1500 SF located on one floor

6. Important elements of the building

Architectural style of the building - Modern

Modern architecture is characterized by:

- an adoption of the principle that the materials and functional requirements determine the result
- a rejection of ornament
- a simplification of form and elimination of "unnecessary detail"
- Connection to the exterior landscape thru doors and large windows providing a
 physical and visual connection. In this architectural style, the same materials are
 used at the interior and exterior blurring the line between inside and outside.

7. List description by elevation

The Dr. and Mrs. Jacoby T. Rothner House is a single story masonry structure.

The 1951 edifice was commissioned by Dr. Jacoby T. Rothner and consisted of a living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room, office, darkroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and a toilet located in a closet within the laundry room. Part of the original structure also contained an attached garage with storage alcove and an unconditioned storage room located off of the entry vestibule.

The second owners, Jack and Mamie Gordon, who sold the property in 1966, made no renovations to the property.

The third owner, Dr. Anthony LaBochetta, who lived in the property from 1966 to 2007 made 2 additions to the property. Approximately 1974, he converted the attached garage and small storage alcove into one bedroom and bathroom. The unconditioned storage room was retrofitted with radiant heat during this renovation. A single story detached garage was built using the same architectural style of the 1951 building

Later at an undocumented date prior to 2007, the detached garage was increased by 250 square feet using the same architectural style. An 18' wide translucent fiberglass garage door was installed at the new opening perpendicular to the existing garage door which remained intact.

The fourth owners, Christine and Bill Winston, (2007 to 2009) made no renovations to the property.

In March of 2009, the fifth and present owners, Janet Grace and Paul Welde infilled the translucent fiberglass garage door opening using the same architectural style of cinder block and replicating the original glass block design found on the 1951 portion of the house.

The exterior of the house has little architectural detailing other than the horizontal scoring at the cinder block. There are 2 distinct types of windows within the structure, both manufactured by Cupples. The first type is single pane, double hung operable annealed glass aluminum framed windows. The windows are fitted with storm windows.

The second type of windows is double paned non-operable windows as manufactured by Cupples. The largest non-operable window is 10'x7' and is located in the living room.

At the West Elevation, the dining room, living room, office and master bedroom have nearly full height ribbon windows facing the backyard. The remaining North, South and East elevations have punched windows that allow light into the rooms, but offer no views and are positioned asymmetrically within the facades.



1951-West Elevation showing ribbon windows



1951 -North Elevation showing punched windows



1951-East Elevation

The roofline has been altered somewhat from its 1951 appearance by the removal of two ventilation fan exhaust vents in 2009. One exhaust fan was for a toilet located in the corner of the laundry room. The toilet was removed by owners Paul Welde and Janet Grace. The other exhaust fan/light fixture combination was located above the darkroom, which was removed by owners Paul Welde and Janet Grace. (Two original light fixtures from the 1951 edifice bedrooms were installed in the darkroom after the exhaust fan was removed from the darkroom.)



1951-1974-2009 South Elevation Before -Roofline showing original 1951 vents from toilet room and darkroom. 1974 Rolled Asphalt Roof with Aluminum silicate coating is in place.



1951-1974-2009 South Elevation After- 2009 renovation of roof removed toilet room and darkroom vents from roofline

Square etched downlights were used at the interior and exterior of the 1951 edifice. Similar downlights were installed at the 1971 garage addition.



1951- Interior Downlight



1951- Same Downlight used at Exterior



1974- Similar Downlight used at Exterior Garage Addition



1974 - North Elevation. (In 1974 the garage was approximately half of the current width.)



2009- East Elevation- In 2009, an 18' translucent corrugated fiberglass overhead garage door was removed and was infilled with in-kind materials



1974- South Elevation



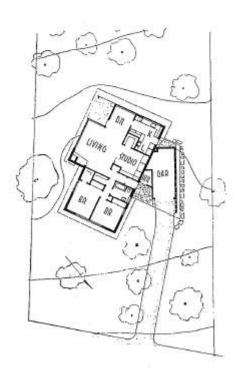
1974- West Elevation

8.0 Boundary Justification

The entire property as outlined in the Boundary Description is hereby nominated for the following reasons:

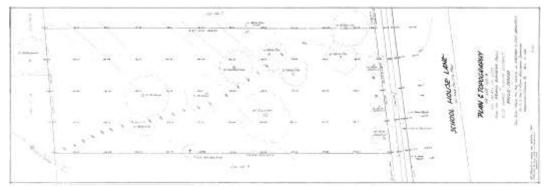
• The house is located on the site in the style of the architect, Norman N. Rice. Mr. Rice set his homes well back from the front of the property and angled them in relation to the street, avoiding the direct view of the neighboring houses and providing the best visual exposure for the living area. The 1951 Residence of Stanley and Janice Berenstain, designed by Rice, (which received the AIA Philadelphia Chapter Award in 1951) shares this characteristic as does other Rice homes.

Residence of Stanley and Janice Berenstain Elkins Park, Pennsylvania Norman N. Rice, Architect



Residence of Stanley and Janice Berenstain

Custom Homes of this period of architectural history were typically sited on choice
lots in established neighborhoods, such as this East Falls property adjacent to the
Wissahickon Valley. Most of these choice lots had mature trees. The original site
plan from 1948 identifies 13 mature trees on the .66 acre lot.



Original 1948 Plot plan showing mature trees

7. Statement of Significance: 3419 W. School House Lane

Prepared by Janet Grace

The Dr. and Mrs. Jacoby T. Rothner Residence at 3419 W. School House Lane located at the edge of the Wissahickon and across from Philadelphia University in the East Falls Section of the City is an important architectural and historical landmark in Philadelphia and is eligible for inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The Rothner Residence fulfills Designation Criteria D and E, which are delineated in paragraph 5 of the City's "Historic Buildings" ordinance section 14-2007 of the Philadelphia Code. Specifically, The Rothner Residence:

- d) embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen.
- e) is the work of a designer, architect landscape architect or designer or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or nation.

The facts that support the nomination are as follows:

d) embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen– Mid Century Modern

3419 W. School House Lane embodies the distinguished characteristics of Mid Century Modern architecture. Modern architecture is a building style which emphasizes simplification of form and the elimination of ornament. The first types were conceived early in the 20th century. Modern architecture was adopted by many influential architects and architectural educators, however very few "Modern buildings" were built in the first half of the century. It gained popularity after the Second World War and became the dominant architectural style for institutional and corporate buildings for three decades.

Modern architecture is usually characterized by:

- an adoption of the principle that the materials and functional requirements determine the result
- an adoption of the machine aesthetic
- a rejection of ornament
- a simplification of form and elimination of "unnecessary detail"
- an adoption of expressed structure
- Form follows function

The exterior of the Rothner residence clearly has a rejection of ornamentation. The exterior can best be described by what it lacks. It has no shutters, no gutters, no decorative moldings, no masonry patterns, no leaded glass, etc. The only gesture of ornamentation is a ½ coat of parging that has been applied to the face of the cinder block to create a continuous

horizontal pattern.

The form of the exterior is determined by the function of the interior spaces. The façade facing the noisy street has few windows as the rooms facing the street are storage, laundry, boiler rooms, darkroom, etc. which require no natural light or views. The façade facing the Wissahickon (Fairmount Park) is almost entirely glass.

The Rothner Residence is classified as a "Mid-Century Modern" because it was built during the heyday of architect-designed homes that were carefully fitted to the needs of the owners and the properties involved. As such, the Rothner Residence was customized to the preferences of the owners. Dr. Rothner. DDS, F.A.C.D., was an established professor of Dentistry at Temple University and a published author of scholarly work on orthodontia and the use of topical penicillin in dentistry at the time that the house was commissioned and built.

The Rothner Residence has a 11'x8' office with built in bookcases and custom shelving to accommodate 12" LP's (Long Playing records, which were also know as "albums" A speaker system was built into the office for a mono hi-fi system. Once can imagine a distinguished man, sitting at the desk, listening to music while writing his dental notes in long hand or on a Remington manual typewriter.

Located in the dead center of the house was a 5'x 8' windowless photographic darkroom with cabinet storage, specialized ventilation, room for an enlarger and double sinks,

The 1,500 SF home, with neither attic nor basement, 2 medium sized bedrooms, all on one level indicates that the home included features important to an aging empty nest couple. The single floor plan, is a practical design for one who anticipates spending their retirement in the home. Limited, but adequate storage space identifies that the couple had already downsized.

The house is constructed of materials that were designed in the 20th century including Concrete Block and Glass Block.

One feature of the house is a butterfly roof. Mid-Century Roof Design was full of forward thinking elements and modern design principals, including clean lines and bold innovations. Frank Lloyd Wright was one of the leaders of this concept that characterized small business architectural and urban development between 1933 and 1965.

In East Falls, the butterfly roof at this house is in stark contrast to the classic English-style house, like the cozy cottage Tudor-style homes that were built just 20 years earlier, located blocks away on West Penn Street and Midvale Avenue.



3400 Block West Penn Street, East Falls circa 1940's

showing Tudor style slate faux mansard roof.



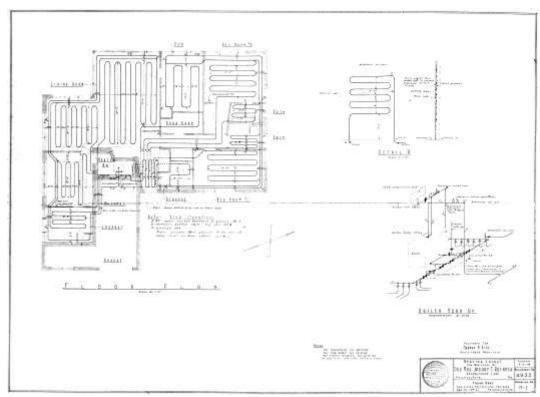
Butterfly Roof at 3419 W. School House Lane

Butterfly roofs are one of a few features from this period that remain as a key element in the recognition of Mid-Century Modernism. Butterfly roofs can be comprised of several different framing options. The Rothner House specimen is called a "shed roof". The shed roof has one flat or downward angled-gable and one butterfly angled gable.

Another element of the house which defines it as Mid Century Modern is the foundation, which is concrete slab on grade with radiant underfloor heating. After World War II with over 16 million servicemen and their families requiring housing, Abraham Levitt and Sons built 17,447 homes in just four years in Levittown, NY. One way Levitt built so fast was that the cookie cutter style homes came without a basement. The slab on grade construction afforded these homeowners the comfort of radiant heat.

Radiant heat fell out of favor in the 1960's when the homeowners demanded central air conditioning and forced air heating became the norm.

Due to the tight timeframe in which the Levittown properties were built, quality suffered and most radiant heating systems in tract homes failed within 15 years. In the Rothner House, the original radiant heating system (designed by engineer Frank Nagy) still functions in 2010 in the Living Room/Dining Room and kitchen. Weil – McClain baseboard radiation was installed in the remainder of the house and in the garage renovation in 1974.



Plan of original radiant heating system

e) is the work of a designer, architect landscape architect or designer or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or nation.



The architect of the house is **Norman Nathaniel Rice** (shown holding drawings in above photo) who fulfills the criteria of having great influence in the historical, architectural and cultural development of the City and the Commonwealth, as evidenced by his lifetime accomplishments, innovations, service and awards:

1903 Born March 17.

1920 Graduates from Central High School with classmate Louis Kahn.

1920-1924 Attends University of Pennsylvania to study architecture with Classmate Louis Kahn. Paul Cret is the head of the Architecture Department at Penn during this period of time. Five (5) examples of his student work are in the collection of the Archives of the University of Pennsylvania. 021.6] Student Work, University of Pennsylvania, 1920--1924; An Early Christian Church (water color rendering); untitled (A Chinese Horse, watercolor rendering); the Water Cope Memorial; 1924. (design competition); Untitled; 3/14/1923. (figure drawing); Untitled; 2/29/1924. (figure drawing). [021.10] Student work, University of Pennsylvania. Notebook; "Elements of Architecture"; 1920-21 https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/bo_display.cfm/103842

1924 Graduates U of Penn with a B. Arch.

1924-1928 Works as a draftsman and designer for Paul Cret, John Molito, Zantsinger, Borie and Madary.

1926 Works on Sesquicentennial exhibition with Louis Kahn. Becomes disillusioned with City corruption and decided to travel through Europe to further his architectural and cultural knowledge.

1928 Travels widely in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Compiles sketchbook of his travels. Two of his sketches are in the collection of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/image_gallery.cfm?RecordId=73CD4D04-8CB9-471F-AE9695A211EB9359

1929 Becomes the first American to work in LeCorbusier's and Pierre Jeanenret's office in Paris.

1929 Louis Kahn visits Norman Rice in Paris.

1929 While in Paris, teams up with work colleagues Ernest Weissmann and Kunio Maekawain enter a competition for the design of a public office building in Zagreb, Croatia.

1930 Writes article "The Minimal House – a Solution" for publication.

1931 Returns to Philadelphia joins firm of Howe and Lescaze. Works on design of PSFS Building, an international style skyscraper. The PSFS building is placed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 1968 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.



PSFS Building, 12th and Market Streets, Philadelphia, PA

1931 Writes article for *Architectural Forum* "Small House Construction, A problem to be Solved".

1932 Establishes independent practice in Philadelphia, at 2400 Pine Street, practice continues until circa mid 1970's.



Office of Norman N. Rice, located at 2400 Pine Street. His house is located above garages behind the office.

1932 Writes article for *TSquare* critiquing Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesen. 1932, Frank Lloyd Wright sends letter to Norman Rice critiquing the international style and responding to Norman Rice's critique of Taliesen.

1932 Designs Apartment Building in Philadelphia, PA published in Architectural Forum.

1932 Designs Stadium Night Club, Hotel Roosevelt, Madison Avenue at 45th Street, New York, NY.

1942 Designs Ormsteen Residence, alterations, 2007 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA.

1945 Joins National Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

1947 Designs home for sculptor Evelyn Keyser, Philadelphia, PA.



Evelyn Keyser Residence

1948-1951 Designs and Builds Residence of Dr. and Mrs. Jacoby T. Rothner Residence, 3419 W. School House Lane, Philadelphia, PA, the subject property of this nomination.

1950's Teaches at the Philadelphia Museum School of Art (now, University of the Arts).

1950 Designs War Memorial for Central High School, 1700 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia.

1951 Designs and Builds Residence of Stanley and Janice Berenstain, Elkins Park, PA. At the 1951 Exhibit of the Philadelphia Chapter A.I.A., the house received the Home Builder's Association Award as "the most distinguished house by a Philadelphia architect.



Berenstain Residence

1952 Published in Architectural Record's Book"82 Distinctive Houses From 1952".

1952-1972 Documented and drafted City Hall drawings and Plans.

1953-55, 1962- 63 Director of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

1953 Redesigns Fitler Square, Philadelphia PA.



Fitler Square 1954

1954 Designs Recreation Center at Fountain and Fowler Streets, Philadelphia, PA.

1955 Designs Kendrick Recreation Center, Ridge Avenue and Pennsdale Street, Philadelphia, PA.

1955 Designs James Oser Residence Timber Lane, Philadelphia, PA



James Oser Residence

1956 Works on preservation of the Haviland Stickland Buildings, Broad and Pine Streets, Philadelphia, PA as the architect for the Philadelphia Museum School of Art. (now, the University of the Arts)



John Haviland Building, Broad and Pine Sts.



Whitehall Housing Project

1957 Designs Happy Hollow Playground, Wayne Avenue and Linden Avenue, Philadelphia, PA.

1958 Designs Whitehall Commons Playground, Tulip, Ditman and Wakeling Street, Philadelphia, PA.



Whitehall Commons Playground

1958 Designs and Builds Temple Beth Hillel, 1001 Remington Road, Wynnewood, PA.Temple Beth Hillel is named on the List of Philadelphia's Modern Monuments, by *The Philadelphia Architect* in 1997.



Temple Beth Hillel

1958-59 Vice President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Late 1950's – Designs Alfred R. Cherashore Playground during Mayor Dillworth's tenure The Nike Hyperdunk Challenge was held at this playground in 2008. In 2010, The Cherashore Playground also has a Facebook page, where users of this playground write their memories of the place. http://ballersnetwork.com/p/en/courts/cherashore-playground/



Cherashore Playground

1960-61 President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

1960-65 Designs and builds playground at B Street and Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA.

1961 Designs Monument to Washington Crossing, Washington Crossing, PA.

1963 -1974 Teaches at University of Pennsylvania with Louis Kahn and Robert LeRoclais.

1964 Made a Fellow of the National Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

1964 Designs Free Library at Broad and Morris Streets.

1964-66 President of the Pennsylvania Society of Architects.

1965 Designs and builds playground at 1626 Federal Street, Philadelphia, PA

1965 Designs and builds School House at Washington's Crossing, Upper Makefiled Township, Bucks County, PA.

1965-67 Designs and builds Cleveland School addition, North 19th Street and Butler Street, Philadelphia, PA.

1966 Chaired The Pennsylvania Society of Architect's Commission on Design.

1966-67 Oversees restoration of swimming pool Moyer Street and Montgomery Avenue, Philadelphia, PA

1967-Designs Grover Cleveland Elementary School additions and Alterations, 3701 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA.

1967-68 Designs Nature Interpretation Center for Fairmount Park Commission, Pennypack Park, Philadelphia PA.



Nature Interpretation Center Pennypack Park

1967-68 Designs Playground at South 18th Streets and Wallace Streets, Philadelphia, PA

1968 Designs and builds new Toilet Building and provides alterations to existing Shelter and Toilet Building at Axe Factory Road and Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia PA.

1969 Designs Master Plan and Rostrum for Rittenhouse Square.

1969 Designs Vestpocket Playground at Cherrywood Street and N. Beechwood Street, Philadelphia, PA

1971-80 Appointed to Pennsylvania State Art Commission.

1972 Writes retrospective on his experiences at the University of Pennsylvania.

1974 Designs District Health Center #10, 2230 Cottman Avenue at Bustleton Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



District Health Center #10

1984 T-Square Club Fellowship established at the University of Pennsylvania, provides fellowship to second-year architecture student on the basis of need and merit. Among the patrons and members of the T-Square Club atelier were Penn professors Paul Philippe Cret, Walter P. Laird, John Harbeson, Jean Hebrand, and Norman Rice.

1985 Interviewed for Book "LeCorbusier in America."

1985 died Dec. 21

Postumus information

1986 Estate donates collection of works from 1920 to 1974 to the University of Pennsylvania. (See Appendix)

2009 – Two original drawings of 3419 West School House Lane donated to the Athenaem of Pennsylvania by current homeowners Janet Grace and Paul Welde. (See Appendix)

2009 – 3419 W. School House Lane is accepted by the Greater Philadelphia Film Office as a filming location for 1950's movies. (See Appendix)

2010 – Preservation Alliance Awards Homeowner Preservation Ward to Janet Grace and Paul Welde for careful historic restoration and documentation of the property. (See Appendix)

8. Bibliography Prepared by Janet Grace

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Plans include negatives and whiteprints and drawings made on linen, mylar, paper and tissue. Sizes of the plans range from 12 5/8" x 10" to 43 1/8" to 39 1/2" and are of varying scales. 18 February 1952 - 1 December 1972

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9. Appendix Prepared by Janet Grace

Norman N. Rice, 1903-1985

A Finding Aid for
Architectural Records and Papers, 1920-1974,
in
The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

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Archival Description

Descriptive Summary

Title:

Architectural Records and Papers, 1920-1974.

Coll. ID:

021

Origin:

Norman N. Rice, 1903-1985, architect.

Extent:

Architectural drawings 170 items;

Photographs 11 photoprints; 1 photonegative;

Miscellany 6 folders.

Repository:

The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

102 Meyerson Hall

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311

(215) 898-8323

Abstract:

The collection documents twelve professional architectural projects, 1931-1974. Rice's student drawings and notebook (1920-1924) and his 1972 retrospective notes listing his (and Louis I. Kahn's) studio professors offer insight into the training he and Kahn received at the University of Pennsylvania. The collection does not contain records of the Master's studio he co-taught with Kahn. The collection also contains Rice's travel sketches (1928-1929) and a brief memoir of his time working in the office of Le

Corbusier (1929-1930). The collection contains no materials related to Rice's family nor

any other materials unrelated to architecture.

Indexes:

This collection is included in the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project, a searchable database of architectural research materials related to architects and

architecture in Philadelphia and surrounding regions:

http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab

Cataloging:

Collection-level records for materials in the Architectural Archives may be found in RLIN Eureka, the union catalogue of members of the Research Libraries Group. The

record number for this collection is PAUP01-A25

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Norman Rice was born in Philadelphia, and graduated from Central High School before earning a B. Arch. at the University of Pennsylvania in 1924. After graduation, he worked as a draftsman and designer with a number of Philadelphia firms. Rice left the city in 1928, and after traveling widely in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, worked in the Paris office of Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret between 1929 and 1930. He returned to Philadelphia in 1931 and joined the firm of Howe & Lescaze during the seminal PSFS Building project. In 1932, Rice established an independent practice in Philadelphia that lasted for some fifty years.

In the 1950s he taught at the Philadelphia Museum School of Art, and in 1963 he returned to the University of Pennsylvania to teach, continuing there until 1977. He made a substantial contribution to architectural education at the University of Pennsylvania through the Master's studio he co-taught with Louis I. Kahn, Robert Le Ricolais and August E. Komendant.

Scope and Content Note

This collection is the only archive of the architectural work of Norman Rice known to the staff of the Architectural Archives. The collection contains drawings for twelve professional projects, 1931-1974, four of which are also documented with photographs. Temple Beth Hillel (Wynnewood, PA) has the fullest documentation: design and presentation drawings, construction drawings, photographs, an office file, and structural calculations by August Komendant. The collection does not contain records for Rice's own house and studio on Fitler Square in Philadelphia nor for several other significant houses Rice designed in and around Philadelphia.

Rice was a lifelong friend of Louis I. Kahn, from their years as fellow students at Central High School and the University of Pennsylvania to their years teaching architectural design together at the University. Rice's student drawings and notebook (1920-1924) and his 1972 retrospective notes listing his (and Kahn's) studio professors offer insight into the training he and Kahn received at the University of Pennsylvania. The collection does not contain records of the Master's studio he co-taught with Kahn.

The collection also contains Rice's travel sketches (1928-1929) and a brief memoir of his time working in the office of Le Corbusier (1929-1930). The collection contains no materials related to Rice's family nor any other materials unrelated to architecture.

The collection is arranged in three series:

- Architectural Drawings.
- II. Photographs.
- III. Miscellany.

A full index to projects represented in this collection is found in Appendix A.

Access Points for Indexing

Rice, Norman N., 1903-1985.

Kahn, Louis I., 1901-1974.

Le Corbusier, 1887-1965.

University of Pennsylvania. Dept. of Architecture--History--Sources.

University of Pennsylvania. Graduate School of Fine Arts-History-- Sources.

Architects--Archives.

Architectural design--History-20th century-Sources.

Architectural drawing--United States.

Architecture, Modern--20th century--United States--Designs and plans.

Architectural design--Study and teaching--History--Sources.

Philadelphia (Pa.)--Buildings, structures, etc--History--Sources.

Wynnewood (Pa.)-Buildings, structures, etc--History--Sources.

Komendant, August E.

Architectural drawings-American.

Student drawings.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: This collection is available for research by appointment only.

Preferred citation: Norman N. Rice Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition: Gift of Norman N. Rice, 1986.

Processing: The collection was processed and the finding aid prepared by William Whitaker, Emily Cooperman, Laura Stroffolino and Nancy Thorne, with the research assistance of Zhou Hong. Work was substantially completed in 2001, with additions and corrections in 2003.

Container list

Series I. Drawings.

Extent: 170 architectural drawings (143 originals, 27 prints).

Call#	Descriptive Title
[021.1]	Studio Apartment Building; design drawing, 1931 (1 original).
5 5	Unidentified project; presentation drawing 1931 (1 original).
	Ornsteen Residence, alterations; design drawing, 2/24/1942 (1 original).
	War Memorial; presentation drawing, 1953 (1 original).
	Monument to Washington Crossing; design and presentation drawings, 9/25/1961
	(2 originals).
	Unidentified playground; design drawing, 7/27/1965 (1 original).
	Rostrum in Rittenhouse Square; presentation drawing, 5/26/1969 (1 original).
[021.2]	Temple Beth Hillel; design and presentation, 9/1962-5/4/1967 (55 originals, 1 print).
[021.3]	Temple Beth Hillel; construction drawings, 2/17/19651/30/1967
[021.3]	(32originals, 2 prints).
	## (155 mm) ## (155 mm) ## (150 mm) ## (150 mm)
[021.4]	Grover Cleveland Elementary School, additions and alterations; presentation and
	construction drawings, 9/8/19651/21/1966 (35 originals).
[021.5]	District Health Center #10; construction drawings, 9/20/1974 (24 prints).
[021.6]	Student Work, University of Pennsylvania, 1920-1924
L.	An Early Christian Church (water color rendering)
	Untitled (A Chinese Horse, watercolor rendering)
	The Water Cope Memorial; 1924. (design competition)
	Untitled; 3/14/1923. (figure drawing)
	Untitled; 2/29/1924. (figure drawing)
[021.7]	Miscellaneous architectural drawings
[021.7]	
	Stadium Night Club; presentation drawing, November 1932 (1 original).
	Whitehall Commons Playground; presentation drawing, 7/1/1958 (1 print).
	Browsing Alcove; design drawing, 2/9/1973 (1 original).
	Unidentified drawings (2 originals).
[021.8]	Travel sketches, 1928-29
	"Motif in Gardens, Taormina, Sicily"; 1928
	"Touggourt, Algeria"; 12/22/1928
	"Stairway in Gardens of Generalife, Granada, Spain"; 3/13/1929
	"Oloron-SteMarie, France"; 4/8/1929

Series II. Photoprints

Extent: 11 photoprints, 1 photonegative.

Call# [021.9]	Descriptive Title Whitehall Commons; building, undated (2 photoprints).	
[021.9]	Unidentified playground; building, undated (2 photoprints). Note: Lawrence S. Williams, Inc. Photography.	
[021.9]	Temple Beth Hillel; graphic, model, and site documentation photography, undated (2 photoprints, 1 negative).	
[021.9]	Grover Cleveland Elementary School, additions and alterations; building, undated (sphotoprints). Note: Lawrence S. Williams, Inc. Photography.	

Series III. Miscellany

Extent: 6 folders

Call# [021.10]	Descriptive Title Student work, University of Pennsylvania. Notebook; "Elements of Architecture"; 1920-1921.
[021.11]	Clippings, 1931-1932. "A Low Rental Apartment Group" from Architectural Record, December 1931. "Studio Apartment Building" from Architectural Forum, July 1932.
[021.12]	Typescript (possibly mimeographed), undated. "I Remember 35 Rue de Sevres", by Norman N. Rice (1 leaf). Note: Short memoir of his time working in the office of Le Corbusier, 1929-1930.
[021.13]	Letter, John M. Whitcomb to Norman N. Rice, 8/18/1972. Note: Letter is important for Rice's annotations listing the design critics of his classmate and colleague, Louis I. Kahn.
[021.14]	Temple Beth Hillel; miscellaneous project file, 1965-1966.
[021.15]	Temple Beth Hillel; structural computations by August Komendant, 8/20/1964 (21 sheets).

Appendix A

Project Index

Arrangement: In chronological order by holdings date.

Studio Apartment Building

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania holdings dates: 1931-1932

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect.

holdings:

[021.1] design drawing, 1931 (1 original).

[021.11] "Studio Apartment Building" from Architectural Forum, July 1932.

Unidentified project

Unlocated

dates: 1931 [Note: Rice dated the drawing while framed. The mat and frame were subsequently

removed for conservation reasons.]

note/s: Clauss - Daub - Rice [associated] architects

holdings:

[021.1] presentation drawing (1 original).

Stadium Night Club

Hotel Roosevelt

Madison Avenue at 45th Street, New York, New York

dates: November 1932

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect. Note: project unbuilt.

holdings:

[021.7] presentation drawing (1 original).

Ornsteen Residence, alterations

Ornsteen, Dr. and Mrs. A. M.

2007 Delancey St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: Feb. 24, 1942

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect - job#: 4126. Alterations included a carved lunette.

[021.1] design drawing, 2/24/1942 (1 original).

War Memorial

Central High School

1700 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 1953

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect.

holdings:

[021.1] presentation drawing, 1953 (1 original).

Whitehall Commons Playground

City of Philadelphia, Department of Recreation

Tulip, Ditman and Wakeling Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: 7/1/1958

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect. Note: Designed and built "Ground-Free Bleachers"

holdings:

[021.7] presentation drawing, 7/1/1958 (1 print).

[021.9] Whitehall Commons; building (2 photoprints).

Monument to Washington Crossing

Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania holdings dates: September 25, 1961 note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect.

holdings:

[021.1] design and presentation drawings, 9/25/1961 (2 originals).

Temple Beth Hillel

1001 Remington Road, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: June 11, 1962 - May 4, 1967

<u>note/s</u>: Norman N. Rice, architect -- job# 473. David Bloom Inc., Structural Engineers. George C. Lewis & Associates, Mechanical Engineers. James T. Clark, Electrical Engineer. Barton & Martin,

Engineers. Thomas Matthew Moody, Engineers

holdings:

[021.2] design and presentation, 9/1962--5/4/1967 (55 originals, 1 print).

[021.3] construction drawings, 2/17/1965-1/30/1967 (32 originals, 2 prints).

[021.9] graphic, model, and site documentation photography, undated (2 photoprints, 1 negative).

[021.14] miscellaneous project file, 1965-66.

[021.15] structural computations by August Komendant, 8/20/1964 (21 leaves).

Unidentified playground

Unlocated [possibly Whitehall Commons?]

holdings dates: July 27, 1965

note/s: Norman N. Rice, designer.

holdings:

[021.1] design drawing, 7/27/1965 (1 original).

[021.9] building, undated (2 photoprints). Note: Lawrence S. Williams, Inc. Photography.

Grover Cleveland Elementary School, additions and alterations

The Board of Public Education

3701 North 19th Street at Butler Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: September 8, 1965 - January 21, 1966

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect -- job# 496. David Bloom Inc., Structural Engineers. George C.

Lewis & Associates, Mechanical Engineers. James T. Clark, Electrical Engineer.

holdings:

[021.4] presentation and construction drawings, 9/8/1965--1/21/1966 (35 originals).

[021.9] building, undated (5 photoprints). Note: Lawrence S. Williams, Inc. Photography.

Rostrum in Rittenhouse Square

Center City Residents Association

Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: May 26, 1969

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect.

holdings:

[021.1] presentation drawing, 5/26/1969 (1 original).

District Health Center #10

City of Philadelphia

2230 Cottman Avenue at Bustleton Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

holdings dates: September 20, 1974

note/s: Norman N. Rice, architect -- job# 553. David Bloom Inc., Structural Engineers. Geo. C.

Lewis & Associates, Mechanical Engineers. Donald F. Nardy & Associates Inc., Electrical Engineers.

holdings:

[021.5] construction drawings, 9/20/1974 (24 sepia prints).

East Washington Square Philadelphia, PA 19106-3794

February 18, 2009

Telephone (215) 925-2688 Facsimile (215) 925-3755 www.Athenaonline.org

Janet Grace 3421 West School House Lane Philadelphia, PA 19129

Dear Janet:

On behalf of the Officers and Directors of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, the community, and visiting researchers, I would like to thank you for your recent gift to the Athenaeum.

Accession# 2009.13

Donation:

2 drawings - One Blueline Plot Plan for Norman Rice for Property on School House Lane; 1 Blueprint 4933-H11: Dr. & Mrs. Jacoby T. Rothner Residence, 1948 - Heating Plan

In order to complete the donation, please sign both copies of the Deed of Gift. Please return the original in the self-addressed, stamped envelope enclosed. You may retain the copy for your records.

By the regulations of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993 this letter constitutes contemporary written acknowledgment that you have received no *quid pro quo* in the form of goods or services for your gift.

Again, thank you for your generous gift.

Sincerely,

Bruce Laverty

Curator of Architecture

East Washington Square Philadelphia, PA 19106-3794

February 18, 2009

Telephone (215) 925-2688 Facsimile (215) 925-3755 www.Athenaonline.org

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Athenæum of Philadelphia, a 501 (c) (3), nonprofit, educational institution, a 509 (a) (1) Public Charity, accepts with pleasure:

Accession:

#2008.13

2 drawings - One Blueline Plot Plan for Norman Rice for Property on School House Lane; 1 Blueprint 4933-H11: Dr. & Mrs. Jacoby T. Rothner Residence, 1948 - Heating Plan

By the regulations of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993 this letter constitutes contemporary written acknowledgment that you have received no quid pro quo in the form of goods or services for your gift.

This item has a value for tax purposes of Fifty Dollars. Such amount (\$50.00) may be taken to the full extent of the law as a deductible gift under IRS regulations concerning gifts to The Athenæum.

Attest:

Bruce Laverty

Gladys Brooks Curator of Architecture

Janet Grace, Owner

East Washington Square Philadelphia, PA 19106-3794

February 18, 2009

Telephone (215) 925-2688 Facsimile (215) 925-3755 www.Athenaonline.org

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Athenæum of Philadelphia, a 501 (c) (3), nonprofit, educational institution, a 509 (a) (1) Public Charity, accepts with pleasure:

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Attest:

Bruce Laverty

Gladys Brooks Curator of Architecture

Janet Grace, Owner

219 South 6th Street Philadelphia, PA 19106-3794 (215) 925-2688

DEED OF GIFT

Name:	Janet Grace			Date: 02/17/200
Address:	3421 West School F	House Lane		
City:	Philadelphia		State: PA	Zip: 19129
PhoneH/W:	267/718-7633	215/531-8204	Fax:	

owning the property herein after described for value, and intending to be legally bound thereby, do hereby set-over, transfer, and assign absolutely to The Athenæum of Philadelphia the following item(s).

It also being understood and agreed between the parties that the said material is being transferred to The Athenæum of Philadelphia, East Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, without any trust imposed or without limitation or restriction placed upon said Athenæum of Philadelphia as to how it may use or employ or dispose said property in the pursuit of its corporate and cultural purposes.

Description of Gift:

2 drawings - One Blueline Plot Plan for Norman Rice for Property on School House Lane; 1 Blueprint 4933-H11: Dr. & Mrs. Jacoby T. Rothner Residence, 1948 - Heating Plan

By my signature below I accept the foregoin	ng conditions and acknowledge readi	ng any attached information.
This gift is given in memory of:		
Dated: 2.21.09	Bonor/agent	<u> </u>
	Donor/agent	
THE GIFT DESCRIBED ABOVE IS A	CCEPTED FOR THE ATHENÆUM	OF PHILADELPHIA
By: Mudea L. Johnson	Ececutive Diroch	2/17/2009 date

Janet Grace

From:

Nicole Shiner [Nicole@film.org] Friday, August 07, 2009 1:33 PM

Sent: To:

Janet Grace

Subject:

RE: Location Gallery candidate

Wow. That house is very unique/wonderful! Thanks for sending along. I've forwarded this to Erin Jackson, our production coordinator for inclusion in our files for future location scouting purposes.

Thanks!

Nicole K. Shiner
Director, Operations & Govt. Affairs
Greater Philadelphia Film Office
100 S. Broad Street, Suite 600
Philadelphia, PA 19110

P: 215-686-2668 F: 215-686-3659

www.film.org; nicole@film.org

From: Janet Grace [mailto:j.grace@athenianprop.com]

Sent: Friday, August 07, 2009 12:51 PM

To: Nicole Shiner

Subject: Location Gallery candidate

Dear Nicole,

Thank you for all that you do for the Greater Philadelphia Film Office. I would like to propose for inclusion in the GPFO's Location Gallery the Dr. and Mrs. Jacoby T. Rothner House located at 3421 West School House Lane, Philadelphia. This house was designed by architect Norman Rice in 1948 and completed circa 1951-1952. I co-own this home with a partner. It has been completed restored to it's 1951 time period inside and out.

This home is quintessential mid century modern, complete with exterior cinder block construction and butterfly roof. If you feel that including this home in your location gallery would be beneficial, please feel free to include it.

Janet Grace

Janet Kimbleton Grace Project Manager Athenian Properties, LLC 833 Chestnut Street, Suite 909 Philadelphia, PA 19107

c 267 718-7633 best place to reach me o 215 531-8204

j.grace@athenianprop.com



February 24, 2010

Janet Grace & Paul Welde 3421 W. School House Land Philadelphia, PA. 19129

Congratulations! On behalf of the Preservation Alliance, I am happy to inform you that you have been selected to receive a 2010 Homeowner Award of Recognition for the fine restoration work you've completed on your historic property. Thank you for your very thorough Homeowner Nomination application and documentation.

Awards will be presented at 1:00 PM at the **Old House Fair on Saturday April 3, 2010** at the **Germantown Friends School Field House** located at 31 West Coulter Street. As the owner of an Awards of Recognition property, we are happy to extend to you **five complimentary tickets** to this popular event (enclosed).

As part of the presentation, we'll be featuring "before" and "after" photos of your home for a slideshow and large boards presentation with project description, using the photos and materials you have already provided.

Please contact me if you have any additional inquiries regarding the 2010 Homeowner Awards of Recognition or the Old House Fair at 215.546.1146 ext 4 or patrick@preservationalliance.com.

Congratulations again, and we look forward to seeing you at 1:00 PM on Saturday April 3rd at the 2010 Old House Fair.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Hauck

Director of Neighborhood Preservation Programs